The MLK, Jr. Education Center (MLK) is a collaboration between Youth Services and Lane Education Service District (ESD) and serves high school students who have an active juvenile delinquency case. MLK Education Center provides education services in three separate settings, two types of vocational training, community service crews, restitution crews, and a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program.

MLK staff work with justice involved youth to provide opportunities to earn high school credit, engage in vocational training, complete community service, and pay restitution to victims. MLK has three service settings; MLK High School, Juvenile Detention Education Program, and Long Term Care and Treatment setting (Phoenix). MLK’s two vocational program are Horticulture and Culinary Arts. Some of the agencies MLK works with include, but are not limited to; Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Bureau of Land Management, City or Eugene, US Forest Service, Willamalane, USDA (Farm to School). Annually the Horticulture crew grows an organic garden and the produce from the garden is distributed to MLK youth and their families, Food for Lane County, and the H&HS WIC program. MLK also has a robust WIOA program for young people 14-24. Grants, fee for service dollars, video lottery funds for training and traffic related criminal fines fund the majority of the program. General Fund pays for personnel expenditures of 1.0 FTE Program Supervisor to oversee program.

ORS 419C.470 states that County juvenile departments shall to the extent practicable, create opportunities for youth offenders under the supervision of a county juvenile department to pay restitution as ordered by the court and to perform any community ordered by the court. In addition, the increasing youth community service and restitution crews is part of Lane County’s 10 Year Public Safety Plan.